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## EXPLORING METHODS IN INFORMATION LITERACY RESEARCH

### PREFACE

Information literacy has been one of the most exciting and transforming concepts to have emerged in the last twenty years. Helping people to be effective learners and users in contemporary information environments is the cornerstone required to bring about learning for individuals, families and communities, learning organisations, learning cities and learning societies.

Underpinning our advocacy for information literacy, our information literacy programs and information literacy education must be a deep understanding of the concept itself, and the many and varied aspects through which people use information to learn, at home, at work and at play. In addition to deepening understanding of information literacy, the very idea of information literacy suggests that we should subject all that we do around it to evidence based practice. These twin purposes: research to deepen understanding, and research to support practice lie at the heart of this exciting new volume.

*Exploring methods in information literacy research* provides the conceptual tools for all of us who wish to explore new approaches to research in the information literacy arena, or who wish to revisit previously familiar methods. Each chapter has been written by someone who has worked with the method; some of the chapters have been written by authors who have recently gone through the experience of learning to use the method, positioning them as ideal contributors to this volume. Each author explores the key aspects of their chosen method and explains how it may be applied in practice. New researchers and early career professionals will appreciate the clarity of the introductions provided.

As with any introductory material, each chapter will also entice readers to go on to explore more detail in other places. We should remember that each chapter represents an author's view at a particular point in time, and that the methods they are describing are also represented at a particular point in time. Research methods are alive; they grow, and develop as they are used. Don't be afraid to experiment and explore, to mix and match, according to your needs.

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